

APPROVED

Members

Samuel D. Obar, Chair
Christine M. Cochrane, Vice
Chair
Kathleen A. Birtwell
George B. Ransom
Roger F. Turner, Jr.



Walpole Historical Commission

Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081

The Walpole Historical Commission held a meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at the Walpole Town Hall, Room 116.

The following members were in attendance:

Samuel D. Obar, Regular Member, Chair
Christine M. Cochrane, Regular Member, Vice Chair
Kathleen A. Birtwell, Regular Member
George B. Ransom, Regular Member
Roger F. Turner, Jr., Regular Member

The following members were not in attendance:

N/A

The following guests were in attendance:

N/A

Chairman Sam Obar called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- **Appointments**

No appointments scheduled.

- **Correspondence**

No correspondence to report. Mr. Obar has forwarded all correspondence to all members via email as it has been delivered.

- **Public Open Forum**

No members of the public were present to speak during Open Forum.

- **Old Business**

Selectmen Presentation Feedback/Commission Secretary/Budget/Annual Report:

APPROVED

The members of the Commission felt that the presentation to Selectmen in January went well. The Selectmen and Town Administrator seemed to be favorable toward the Commission's request for a secretary and for changes to the Demolition Delay Bylaw. The Town Administrator has recommended funding for a secretary for the next fiscal year for \$1,000. Mr. Obar advised the Commission members to find someone who is willing to apply for this position. Mr. Obar also submitted the 2017 annual report to the Town Administrator for publication.

1350 North Street Demolition Delay:

The applicant will be appearing before the Commission in March to ask for a suspension of the delay. The neighbors have formed a group called the Walpole Preservation Alliance to protect the home. One of the group's leaders spoke at the Chamber of Commerce's State of the Town event.

Mr. Obar plans to reach out to the Norfolk County Agricultural School to see if they would accept and fund the structure being moved to their property across the street from the house's present site.

777 East Street Demolition Delay:

The applicant/owner has said they have no intention of preserving the house at this location.

Historic Districts:

Nothing to report.

Barn Survey:

The Commission received one more response in the past month, and George Ransom has compiled all the surveys and will coordinate visits to the barns.

Bird Family Memorial Area:

Mr. Obar communicated with the Trustees of Reservations and they said they are not interested in acquiring this property. Mr. Obar will find out from the Walpole Parks Department/DPW if they can handle the acquisition of this property or if it would be a burden. Mr. Obar feels that the town should take over this property to ensure its permanent preservation as a memorial to the Bird Family.

Union Station Plaque Ceremony:

The Commission will plan a ceremony to unveil the plaque at Union Station for the spring, likely April. The Commission should invite Rick Hurst (railroad expert), state legislators, Selectmen, and other dignitaries to speak at the event. The Commission chairman can be a master of

APPROVED

ceremonies and provide introductions. Everyone who speaks should be given a certificate. Members of the Historical Society along with former Chairman Michael Amaral should be invited to the ceremony. Mr. Obar will coordinate invitations and speaking program.

Demolition Delay Bylaw:

The bylaw changes will be on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant.

- **New Business**

New Member Recruitment:

Members of the Commission are encouraged to invite other people to join.

Other New Business:

George Ransom said he felt that the Commission had a productive 2017.

Mr. Obar said the town has hired a new Planner, Tim Higgins. He previously worked for Edgewood Development, which is constructing the new complex at the site of the former Fales Machine Company.

Mr. Obar said he will plan tours of factories in Walpole for the Commission during 2018, such as Peggy Lawton Cookie Factory and Hollingsworth & Vose.

Christine Cochrane said the Commission should monitor the plans for development around Lewis Castle as the plans have changed. It is being reviewed by Planning Board.

Mr. Obar made a motion that all meeting minutes are deemed approved without objection pending a member's stated objection. Katie Birtwell seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0-0.** This motion formalized a policy the Commission has had since 2017.

Roger Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Ms. Birtwell seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0-0.**